

INDIA
OSS ACTIVITIES

November 17/50

MEMORANDUM TO: COLONEL DONOVAN
SUBJECT: ICELAND

Paul E. Victor
2114 Quiber Place N.W.
Washington, D.C.
Tel : Woodley 5029

The above is considered by reliable sources as possibly the leading authority on Iceland now available. The attached summary of his record indicates that he spent several years in Iceland on scientific research. Because of his military experience he is equipped to interpret his observations into strategic terms.

He has recently offered his services to the War Department as a consultant on equipment for our forces in Iceland. He is not at present working with them.

The above information was given to the undersigned by Mrs. Rado of our New York office.

As this man has relatives in France he would wish any meetings with us kept secret and not held in this office. He will respond to an invitation to a "cocktail party" at any time.

Mr. Stephanson states that Captain Victor has a "scholarly reputation".

William A. Kimbel

November 7, 1948

Dear General:

Under authorization of the President, I am sending to London a small staff to carry out our program which is "to collect and analyze all information and data, which may bear upon national security; to correlate such information and data, and to make such information and data available to the President and to such departments and officials of the Government as the President may determine; and to carry out, when requested by the President, such supplementary activities as may facilitate the securing of information important for national security not now available to the Government."

Accordingly, under the supervision of my Executive Officer, Thomas G. Early, the following men are proceeding to London via Iceland:

Morris Gilbert
Percy Winner
Theodore Olson
Emanuel L. Aronhime
Edward E. Harlan
William V. Pulman
Sterling Hayden
James S. Kaylor
Lt. Leonard T. Jones

I recommend these men to you and shall appreciate your courtesy in permitting them to pass through Iceland.

Most sincerely,

William J. Donovan

General C. H. Bonesteel
Commanding General
American Forces in Iceland
Reykjavik, Iceland

WJD:VF

HEADQUARTERS
ICELAND BASE COMMAND
REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

Hold

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL



3 December, 1941.

Colonel William J. Donovan,
Coordinator Of Information,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Colonel Donovan:

I have your letter of 7 November, 1941, presented to me by Mr. Thomas G. Early upon the arrival of his party in Iceland on Sunday, 30 November, 1941.

I have been only too happy to be of service in sheltering and feeding this party during its short stay here, and in assisting in procuring transportation for the remainder of its journey. Our facilities have been placed at Mr. Early's disposal, and I am assured by him that all arrangements have been entirely satisfactory.

Mr. Early and his party departed this date for London. I hope that you will feel free to call upon me at any time in the future when I may be of similar service up to the limit of my restricted capacity.

Sincerely,



C. H. Bonesteel,
Major General, Commanding
United States Army Forces In Iceland.

December 22, 1941

Major General C. E. Bonesteel
United States Army Forces in Iceland
Iceland Base Command
Reykjavik, Iceland

My dear General Bonesteel:

Thank you for your letter of December 3,
and I want you to know that I am most grateful
for your courtesy and assistance to the party
that arrived on November 30th. I have noted
also what you say about restricted accommo-
dations, and we should certainly comply with
your requests in that regard.

Again with many thanks,

Sincerely,

William J. Donovan

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

My dear Colonel Newman:

Thank you for your letter of October 15th concerning the Photographic Presentation Group of your office and, in particular, their prospective trip to Iceland and the necessary authorization for their operations, and enclosing a draft order containing such authority.

I believe that it would be preferable, rather than issuing a blanket authorization, to provide specific authorization for each operation your group may undertake such as, for instance, this trip to Iceland. I am now such an authorization which may be furnished at your discretion to your group, and which I will forward in accordance to the naval authorities concerned. This Commander in Chief of the Atlantic Fleet and the local Naval Commander in Iceland.

I understand that you have advised the War Department and that, consequently, it will be unnecessary for me to report to that Department any authorization applying to the military forces in Iceland. Civilian defense forces would not, in this instance, appear to be concerned.

As a precaution against unauthorized disclosure of confidential equipment, I would appreciate your consulting the Navy Department to review such parts of your draft as may be designated for public release, as referred by the President, before such release is authorized.

Very truly yours,

Colonel M. J. Newman,
Coordinator of Information
Washington, D. C.

November 25, 1941

Honorable Owen L. Rorick
Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

On November 1, 1941 you authorized the Photographic Development Group of this office to make motion and still pictures of naval subjects in Iceland.

The President has directed this group to prepare for him a similar record of all matters pertaining to the national security in the Caribbean, South Atlantic and Panama Canal areas.

Will you kindly cause to be issued an authorization covering this area similar to the one issued in the matter of Iceland.

Sincerely yours,

William J. Donovan
Coordinator of
Information

WJD/edj

Island 1016

In reply refer to Island
and No.

Serial 00016

**NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON**

CONFIDENTIAL

JAN 6 - 1942

Colonel William J. Donovan,
Coordinator of Information,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Colonel Donovan:

In further reference to your letter of December 20 to the Secretary of the Navy, concerning arrangements for the return of Lieutenant Siegler and his party from Iceland, you are advised that we have been notified of the departure of Lieutenant Siegler's group.

Very truly yours,



T. S. Wilkinson,
Captain, U. S. Navy,
Director of Naval Intelligence.

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